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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

KHAN M. HASAN, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Case No. 4:19-cv-07149-YGR

CLASS ACTION

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION OF
HAKAM ALTOHOL FOR
CONSOLIDATION, APPOINTMENT AS
LEAD PLAINTIFF, AND APPROVAL OF
SELECTION OF COUNSEL;
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

Date: February 4, 2020

Time: 2:00PM

Courtroom: 1 – 4th Floor

Judge: Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers

1 KHAFFRE BARCLIFT, on behalf of himself
2 and all others similarly situated,

3 Plaintiff,

4 v.

5 TWITTER, INC., JACK DORSEY, AND NED
6 SEGAL,

7 Defendants.

Case No. 5:19-cv-07992-BLF

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NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION

TO: ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD

3 **PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Lead Plaintiff movant Hakam Altohol (“Altohol”) by
4 and through his counsel, hereby moves this Court in Courtroom 1 – 4th Floor of the Honorable
5 Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers at the United States District Court, Northern District of California,
6 Oakland Courthouse, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland California 94612, on February 4, 2020 at 2:00
7 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, for the entry of an Order: (i) consolidating
8 the above-captioned actions pursuant to Rule 42 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; (ii)
9 appointing Altohol as Lead Plaintiff pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of
10 1995 (“PSLRA”), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4, *et seq.*; (iii) approving the selection of Labaton Sucharow
11 LLP (“Labaton Sucharow”) as Lead Counsel for the Class (the “Motion”); and (iv) granting such
12 other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

13 This Motion is made on the grounds that Althonol believes he is the “most adequate
14 plaintiff” under the PSLRA, and should therefore be appointed Lead Plaintiff. Specifically,
15 Althonol believes he has the “largest financial interest” in the relief sought by the Class in this
16 litigation. Althonol also otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of
17 Civil Procedure (“Rule 23”) because his claims are typical of other Class members’ claims, and
18 because he will fairly and adequately represent the Class.

19 This Motion is based upon the accompanying Memorandum of Law in support thereof,
20 the Declaration of Francis P. McConville (“McConville Decl.”) filed herewith, the pleadings and
21 other filings herein, and such other written or oral argument as may be permitted by the Court.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES TO BE DECIDED

- 24 1. Whether the Court should consolidate the above-captioned actions pursuant to
25 Rule 42(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

26 2. Whether the Court should appoint Altohol as Lead Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
27 § 78u-4(a)(3)(B); and

1 3. Whether the Court should approve of Altohol's selection of Labaton Sucharow as
 2 Lead Counsel for the Class pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v).

3 **II. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

4 Presently pending in this District are the two above-captioned securities class actions
 5 brought on behalf of all persons and entities who purchased Twitter, Inc. ("Twitter" or the
 6 "Company") securities from August 6, 2019 through October 23, 2019, inclusive (the "Class
 7 Period").¹ The Action charges Twitter and certain of its officers and/or directors (collectively,
 8 "Defendants") with violations of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act") and
 9 SEC Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder.

10 In securities class actions, the PSLRA requires district courts to resolve consolidation
 11 before appointing a lead plaintiff. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(ii). Here, the actions should
 12 be consolidated because they each involve identical legal and factual questions. *See* Fed. R. Civ.
 13 P. 42(a); § IV.A., *infra*.

14 As soon as practicable after its decision on consolidation, pursuant to the PSLRA, this
 15 Court is to appoint the "most adequate plaintiff" to serve as lead plaintiff. 15 U.S.C. § 78u-
 16 4(a)(3)(B)(i). In that regard, the Court is required to determine which member of the Class has
 17 the "largest financial interest" in the relief sought in this litigation, and also whether that movant
 18 has made a *prima facie* showing that it is a typical and adequate Class representative under Rule
 19 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Rule 23"). 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I).

20 Altohol respectfully submits that he should be appointed Lead Plaintiff because he has
 21 the "largest financial interest" in this litigation and has made the requisite showing of typicality
 22 and adequacy required by the standards of the PSLRA. As set forth in detail below, Altohol
 23 incurred **\$97,840** in losses as a result of his transactions in Twitter securities during the Class

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 25
 26 ¹ The first filed action, captioned *Hasan v. Twitter, Inc.*, No. 19-cv-07149 (N.D. Cal. Oct.
 27 29, 2019), is currently pending before this Court (the "Hasan Action"). The second filed action,
 28 captioned *Barclift v. Twitter, Inc.*, No. 19-cv-07992 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 5, 2019), is currently
 pending before the Honorable Beth Labson Freeman (the "Barclift Action") (together with the
Hasan Action, the "Action"). On December 19, 2019, Judge Freeman *sua sponte* submitted
 before this Court a referral to determine whether the *Barclift* Action is related to the *Hasan*
 Action. *See Hasan Action*, ECF No. 24.

Period.² In light of this significant loss, Althonol has a substantial financial interest in the relief sought by this litigation—an interest believed to be greater than that of any competing movant.

Altohol also meets the typicality and adequacy requirements of Rule 23 as required by the PSLRA, because his claims are typical of those of absent Class members, and because he will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class. Accordingly, Altohol is the “most adequate plaintiff” and should be appointed Lead Plaintiff.

Altohol has also demonstrated his adequacy through his selection of Labaton Sucharow as Lead Counsel on behalf of the Class. Labaton Sucharow is a nationally recognized securities class action firm that has recovered billions of dollars for the benefit of injured investors, and has the expertise and resources necessary to handle litigation of this complexity and scale.

Accordingly, Althonol requests that the Court appoint him Lead Plaintiff and otherwise grant his Motion.

III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Twitter describes itself as a global platform for public self-expression and conversation in real time. Twitter is available in more than 40 languages around the world. The service can be accessed via twitter.com, an array of mobile devices via Twitter owned and operated mobile applications (e.g., Twitter for iPhone and Twitter for Android), and SMS (text messaging).

Twitter generates the substantial majority of its revenue from advertising. Twitter enables its advertisers to target an audience based on a variety of factors, including a user's interests—called an “interest graph”. The interest graph maps, among other things, interests based on users followed and actions taken on our platform, such as Tweets created and engagement with Tweets. In addition, when someone joins Twitter, it asks users for their permission to use their device settings and data—additional information which helps Twitter and its advertisers to target consumers.

² A Copy of the PSLRA-required Certification is attached as Exhibit A to the accompanying McConville Decl., which sets forth all transactions for Altohol in Twitter securities during the Class Period. In addition, a chart reflecting the calculation of Altohol's losses as a result of his Class Period transactions in Twitter securities is attached as Exhibit B to the McConville Decl.

1 On August 6, 2019, Twitter publicly disclosed through a tweet that it recently found
 2 issues where certain user settings choices designed to target advertising were not working as
 3 intended. Twitter represented that “We recently discovered and fixed issues related to your
 4 settings choices for the way we deliver personalized ads, and when we share certain data with
 5 trusted measurement and advertising partners.”

6 However, unknown to investors, while Twitter represented that it “fixed” certain issues
 7 relating to user choice settings, Defendants (defined below) failed to disclose that the changes
 8 implemented to fix these issues adversely affected Twitter’s ability to target advertising,
 9 including the targeting of advertising through its Mobile App Promotion (“MAP”) product,
 10 which caused a material decline in advertising revenue.

11 On October 24, 2019, before the market opened, the Company disclosed its financial
 12 results for the quarter ended September 30, 2019 and conducted a conference call with investors.
 13 Twitter’s revenue of \$823.7 million was over 5 percent lower than analysts’ estimate of \$874
 14 million. Weaker-than-expected advertising revenues caused this revenue shortfall.

15 During the conference call, Defendant Jack Dorsey (“Dorsey”), Twitter’s Chief
 16 Executive Officer, disclosed that software defects caused by the changes implemented before the
 17 beginning of the Class Period had negatively affected the Company’s third quarter financial
 18 results and that the negative effects on advertising revenue would continue through at least the
 19 fourth quarter of 2019.

20 On this news, Twitter’s shares declined from a closing price of \$38.83 per share on
 21 October 23, 2019, to close at \$30.73 per share, a decline of \$8.10 per share, or over 20%, on
 22 heavier than average trading volume (over 105 million shares traded).

23 **IV. ARGUMENT**

24 **A. The Actions Should Be Consolidated**

25 Rule 42(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“Rule 42(a)”) states that “[i]f actions
 26 before the court involve a common question of law or fact, the court may: (1) join for hearing or
 27 trial any or all matters at issue in the actions; (2) consolidate the actions; or (3) issue any other
 28 orders to avoid unnecessary cost or delay.” *Crihfield v. CytRx Corp.*, No. CV 16-05519 SJO

1 (SKx), 2016 WL 10587938, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 26, 2016). The PSLRA contemplates
 2 consolidation where “more than one action on behalf of a class asserting substantially the same
 3 claim or claims arising under this chapter has been filed.” 15 U.S.C. 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(ii). As
 4 such, the PSLRA does not displace the traditional legal standards for consolidation under Rule
 5 42(a).

6 Consolidation of the above-captioned actions is proper where, as here, the actions involve
 7 common questions of law and fact such that consolidation would prevent unnecessary cost or
 8 delay in adjudication. Each of the actions has been filed in this District alleging similar factual
 9 and legal grounds to support allegations of violations of Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the
 10 Exchange Act arising from the public dissemination of false and misleading information to
 11 investors. Accordingly, the actions should be consolidated pursuant to Rule 42(a) for all
 12 purposes.

13 **B. Altohol Should Be Appointed Lead Plaintiff**

14 Altohol respectfully submits that he is the presumptively “most adequate plaintiff”
 15 because he has complied with the PSLRA procedural requirements, holds the largest financial
 16 interest of any qualified movant, and otherwise satisfies Rule 23’s typicality and adequacy
 17 requirements.

18 **1. The PSLRA Standard for Appointing Lead Plaintiff**

19 The PSLRA provides a straightforward, sequential procedure for selecting lead plaintiff
 20 for “each private action arising under [the Exchange Act] that is brought as a plaintiff class
 21 action pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.” *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(1); *see also*
 22 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B). First, Section 21D(a)(3)(A)(i) of the Exchange Act, as amended by
 23 the PSLRA, specifies that:

24 Not later than 20 days after the date on which the complaint is
 25 filed, the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall cause to be published, in a
 26 widely circulated national business-oriented publication or wire
 27 service, a notice advising members of the purported plaintiff
 28 class --

(I) of the pendency of the action, the claims asserted therein,
 and the purported class period; and

(II) that, not later than 60 days after the date on which the notice is published, any member of the purported class may move the court to serve as lead plaintiff of the purported class.

15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i).

Next, under the PSLRA, a court is to consider any motion made by class members and appoint the movant that the court determines to be most capable of adequately representing the interests of the class as lead plaintiff. Specifically, the PSLRA provides that a court:

shall appoint as lead plaintiff the member or members of the purported plaintiff class that the court determines to be most capable of adequately representing the interests of class members (. . . the "most adequate plaintiff")

15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(i).

In adjudicating a lead plaintiff motion, a court shall adopt a presumption that the “most adequate plaintiff” is the person who: (i) filed a complaint or made a motion to serve as lead plaintiff; (ii) has the largest financial interest in the relief sought by the class; and (iii) otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I); *see also In re Cavanaugh*, 306 F.3d 726, 729-30 (9th Cir. 2002) (discussing three-step competitive process for selecting a lead plaintiff). This presumption “may be rebutted only upon proof . . . that the presumptively most adequate plaintiff [] will not fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class” or “is subject to unique defenses that render such plaintiff incapable of adequately representing the class.” 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II); *see also Tanne v. Autobytel, Inc.*, 226 F.R.D. 659, 668 (C.D. Cal. 2005) (same).

C. Alcohol Is the “Most Adequate Plaintiff”

1. Althonol Satisfied the PSLRA's Procedural Requirements

Altohol filed this motion to serve as Lead Plaintiff in a timely manner. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i), on October 30, 2019, counsel for the Plaintiff in the first-filed action caused notice regarding the pending nature of this case to be published on *PR Newswire*, a widely circulated, national, business-oriented news reporting service. *See Notice, McConville Decl. Ex. C.* Thus, as permitted by the PSLRA, any person or group of persons may apply to be

1 appointed Lead Plaintiff within sixty (60) days after publication of the notice, *i.e.*, on or before
 2 December 30, 2019. Altohol filed his motion within the required period.

3 **2. Altohol Has the Largest Financial Interest in the Outcome of the**
 4 **Action**

5 The PSLRA instructs the Court to adopt a rebuttable presumption that the “most adequate
 6 plaintiff” for lead plaintiff purposes is the movant with “the largest financial interest in the relief
 7 sought by the class,” so long as the movant “otherwise satisfies the requirements of Rule 23.”
 8 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I); *see also Richardson v. TVIA, Inc.*, No. C 06 06304-RMW,
 9 2007 WL 1129344, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 16, 2007) (discussing the PSLRA’s lead plaintiff
 10 appointment process).

11 During the Class Period, Altohol suffered substantial losses of **\$97,840** as a result of his
 12 transactions in Twitter securities. *See Loss Analysis*, McConville Decl. Ex. B. Altohol is
 13 presently unaware of any other movant with a larger financial interest in the outcome of the
 14 Action. Consequently, and because he also satisfies Rule 23’s typicality and adequacy
 15 requirements, Altohol is entitled to the legal presumption that he is the most adequate plaintiff.

16 **3. Altohol Satisfies Rule 23’s Typicality and Adequacy Requirements**

17 In addition to possessing the largest financial interest in the outcome of the litigation,
 18 Altohol satisfies the applicable requirements of Rule 23. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-
 19 4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(I)(cc). With respect to class certification, Rule 23(a) requires that: (i) the class is
 20 so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; ii) there are questions of law or fact
 21 common to the class; (iii) such claims are typical of those of the class; and (iv) the representative
 22 will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a). However,
 23 at the lead-plaintiff-selection stage, all that is required is a preliminary showing that the lead
 24 plaintiff’s claims are typical and adequate. *See, e.g., Autobytel*, 226 F.R.D. at 667 (noting that a
 25 “preliminary showing” of typicality and adequacy is all that is necessary at the lead plaintiff
 26 stage).

27

28

(a) Althonol's Claims Are Typical of Those of the Class

The typicality requirement of Rule 23(a)(3) is satisfied “when: (1) the claims of the proposed lead plaintiff arise from the same course of conduct that gives rise to the other purported class members’ claims, (2) the claims are based on the same legal theory, and (3) the purported class members and proposed lead plaintiff were injured by the same conduct.” *Mohanty v. Bigband Networks, Inc.*, No. C 07-5101 SBA, 2008 WL 426250, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 14, 2008). Here, the claims that Altohol asserts are typical of the claims of the other members of the putative Class because, like all other Class members, Altohol: (i) purchased Twitter securities during the Class Period; (ii) was adversely affected by Defendants’ allegedly false and misleading statements; and (iii) suffered damages as a result thereof. Because the claims that Altohol asserts are based on the same legal theories and arise “from the same event or practice or course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of other class members,” typicality is satisfied. *See Newberg, et al., NEWBERG ON CLASS ACTIONS*, §3:13 (4th ed. 2002). Thus, Altohol satisfies the typicality requirement.

(b) Alcohol Will Fairly and Adequately Protect the Interests of the Class

Altohol will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the proposed Class. Under Rule 23(a)(4), a representative party must “fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.” FED. R. CIV. P. 23(a)(4). With respect to adequacy, a movant is an adequate class representative when it “does not have interests antagonistic to the proposed class, and when the proposed lead plaintiff has retained experienced and capable counsel.” *See Mohanty*, 2008 WL 426250, at *5. No antagonism exists between Altohol’s interests and those of the absent Class members; rather, the interests of Altohol and Class members are squarely aligned.

In addition, Altool has demonstrated his adequacy through his selection of Labaton Sucharow as Lead Counsel to represent the Class in this action. As discussed more fully below, Labaton Sucharow is highly experienced in prosecuting securities class actions vigorously and efficiently, and timely submitted its choice to the Court for approval, in accordance with the

1 PSLRA. *See* 15 U.S.C. §§ 78u-4(a)(3)(A)(i)(II) and (B)(v). Accordingly, Althohol satisfies the
 2 adequacy requirement.

3 **D. The Court Should Approve Althohol's Choice of Counsel**

4 The PSLRA vests authority in the lead plaintiff to select and retain lead counsel for the
 5 class, subject to the court's approval. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(3)(B)(v). As such, this Court
 6 should not disturb the lead plaintiff's choice of counsel unless necessary to "protect the interests
 7 of the class." 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(3)(B)(iii)(II)(aa); *see also In re Cohen v. United States*, 586
 8 F.3d 703, 712 (9th Cir. 2009) ("[I]f the lead plaintiff has made a reasonable choice of counsel,
 9 the district court should generally defer to that choice.") (citing *In re Cendant Corp. Litig.*, 264
 10 F.3d 201, 276 (3d Cir. 2001)); *see also Cavanaugh*, 306 F.3d at 734 ("Selecting a lawyer in
 11 whom a litigant has confidence is an important client prerogative and we will not lightly infer
 12 that Congress meant to take away this prerogative from securities plaintiffs. And, indeed, it did
 13 not. While the appointment of counsel is made subject to the approval of the court, the Reform
 14 Act clearly leaves the choice of class counsel in the hands of the lead plaintiff.").

15 Here, Althohol has selected Labaton Sucharow, highly-qualified counsel, to serve as Lead
 16 Counsel for the proposed Class. Labaton Sucharow has significant experience in prosecuting
 17 securities class actions and has excelled as lead counsel in numerous landmark securities class
 18 actions throughout the United States on behalf of defrauded investors. Labaton Sucharow served
 19 as a lead counsel in *In re American International Group, Inc. Securities Litigation*, No. 04-cv-
 20 8141 (S.D.N.Y.), in which it achieved a recovery totaling more than \$1 billion for injured
 21 investors, secured a \$294.9 million recovery in *In re Bear Stearns Cos., Inc. Securities,*
 22 *Derivative, & ERISA Litigation*, No. 08-md-1963 (S.D.N.Y.), in which it served as co-lead
 23 counsel, and secured a \$117.5 million settlement in *In re Mercury Interactive Corp. Securities*
 24 *Litigation*, No. 05-cv-3395 (N.D. Cal.). In addition, Labaton Sucharow was a lead counsel in *In*
 25 *re Countrywide Financial Corp. Securities Litigation*, No. 07-cv-5295 (C.D. Cal.), which
 26 achieved a settlement of \$624 million—one of the largest securities fraud settlements arising
 27 from the financial crisis of 2007 and 2008, and also secured a \$160.5 million settlement as lead
 28 counsel in *In re Broadcom Corp. Class Action Litigation*, No. 06-cv-05036 (C.D. Cal.). Labaton

1 Sucharow presently serves as lead and co-lead counsel in several significant investor class
2 actions. *See* McConville Decl., Ex. D.

3 Thus, the Court may be assured that by granting this motion and approving Altohol's
4 selection of Labaton Sucharow as Lead Counsel, the Class will receive the highest caliber of
5 legal representation.

6 **CONCLUSION**

7 For the foregoing reasons, Altohol respectfully requests that the Court: (i) consolidate the
8 above-captioned actions; (ii) appoint Altohol as Lead Plaintiff; (iii) approve the selection of
9 Labaton Sucharow as Lead Counsel for the Class; and (iv) grant such other and further relief as
10 the Court may deem just and proper.

11 DATED: December 30, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

12 /s/ Francis P. McConville

13 **LABATON SUCHAROW LLP**

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27 *Local Counsel for Hakam Altohol*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on December 30, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send a Notice of Electronic Filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Francis P. McConville
Francis P. McConville